

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/849,735

Examiner

Faye Francis

Applicant(s)

BLACKMAN ET AL.

Art Unit

3712

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed on.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4,6-8,23,24,26-29,32 and 33.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

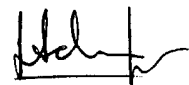
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☒ to Paper No./Mail Date 5.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-802)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


Jacob K. Ackun
Primary Examiner

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-4, 6-8, 23-24, 26-29 and 32-33 are allowed.

Reasons For Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 1 has been found to be allowable over the prior art of record because the prior art fails to teach or suggest an apparatus for minimizing current flow in a circuit comprising: an inflatable device, a circuit comprising a power source and a switch electrically coupled to the power source, wherein the switch has an open position which prevents current from flowing from the power source, and a closed position which allows current to flow from the power source through the circuit, a tab having a proximal portion and a distal portion and the tab forms a valve in the inflatable device, in combination with the remaining limitations of the claim.

Claim 6 has been found to be allowable over the prior art of record because the prior art fails to teach or suggest an apparatus for minimizing current flow in a circuit comprising: an inflatable device, a circuit comprising a power source and a switch electrically coupled to the power source, wherein the switch has an open position which prevents current from flowing from the power source, and a closed position which allows current to flow from the power source through the circuit, a tab having a proximal portion and a distal portion, a valve and wherein the distal portion of the tab is coupled to the valve, in combination with the remaining limitations of the claim.

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Claim 23 has been found to be allowable over the prior art of record because the prior art fails to teach or suggest an inflatable Mylar balloon comprising: a plurality of sheets having an edge and an interior side, a sound producing circuit, a switch, a piezoelectric noise generator electrically coupled to the switch, wherein the switch is operable between an open circuit position and a closed circuit position, the circuit being mechanically coupled to the interior side of one of the plurality of sheets, a tab coupled to the switch and the tab comprises a valve configured to allow air into the Mylar balloon, in combination with the remaining limitations of the claim.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

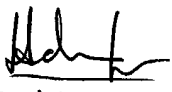
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Faye Francis whose telephone number is 703-306-5941. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 6:30-3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Derris Banks can be reached on 703-308-1745. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Jacob K. Ackun
Primary Examiner